

Message Text

SECRET

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APPROVED BY: NEA: TAIN TOMPKINS

S/S: MR. ORITZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 173565

NODIS

EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR HELMS - INSTRUCTION FOLLOWS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 4987 ACTION SECSTATE 23 JUL 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4987

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS JO US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR JORDAN

REF: STATE 172278

1. DELIVERED MESSAGE REFTEL TO PRIME MINISTER AT MIDNIGHT
LOCAL TIME JULY 22. HE HAS JUST CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE
AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING HANDWRITTEN TEXT OF LETTER
FROM HIS MAJESTY TO YOU.

2. BEGIN TEXT: JULY 23,1975. MR SECRETARY

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CABLE REGARDING THE QUESTION OF AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR JODAN. FIRST OF ALL , I WISH TO THANK YOU AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO HELP JORDAN MEET ITS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR LEGITIMATE SELF DEFENSE.

I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU THAT OPTIONS ONE AND TWO ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. AS FOR OPTION NUMBER THREE, I WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

ONE: AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE FOURTEEN BATTERIES OF HAWKS AS WELL AS THE VULCANS AND THE REDEYES ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR AIR DEFENSE. THESE FIGURES WERE ARRIVED AT AFTER MONTHS OF STUDY AND SCRUTINY BY YOUR AIR DEFENSE TEAMS AND MILITARY DELEGATIONS. AND AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENT AND YOUR GOODSELF, THE PACKAGE AS A WHOLE, WAS APPROVED AND A COMMITMENT WAS MADE TO ME BY YOU BOTH. THEREFORE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM AGREED UPON AS ONE ENTITY AND NOT DIVIDE IT UP INTO SMALL PARTS.

TWO: WHAT ASSURANCES WILL WE HAVE THAT AFTER THE SIXTH BATTERY, IS DELIVERED AND BEFORE THE SEVENTH IS DELIVERED, CONGRESS WILL NOT DECIDE TO STOP FURTHER DELIVERIES? I REALIZE THE ADMINISTRATION IS FULLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THESE SYSTEMS FOR US, AND I ACCEPT THIS COMMITMENT. BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WHAT GOOD ARE THOSE COMMITMENTS IF CONGRESS CAN VETO THEM AT ANY TIME WILLY-NILLY? AND WHAT POSITION WOULD JORDAN FIND ITSELF IN IF CONGRESS DECIDES AGAINST FURTHER DELIVERIES OF MORE THAN SIX BATTERIES? WOULD WE NOT FIND OURSELVES STUCK WITH ONLY A PART OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM? AND WOULD WE NOT HAVE TO START LOOKING THEN FOR ALTERNATE SYSTEMS, AFTER HAVING WASTED SO MUCH MONEY AND TIME?

THREE: THE EVENTS OF THE LAST COUPLE WEEKS REGARDING THE HAWKS RAISE SOME VERY SERIOUS QUESTIONS REGARDING AMERICAN POLICY IN THE AREA, AND WHICH ARE FAR MORE
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IMPORTANT THAN THE SALE OF ARMS TO JORDAN. HOW CAN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN A MANNER THAT WILL SERVE ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE INTERESTS OF ITS ALLIES IN THE AREA, AND SERVE THE CAUSE OF PACE AND MODERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IF THE DECISIONS IT MAKES IN THIS REGARD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY A CONGRESS THAT APPARENTLY IS GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE ZIONIST LOBBY? HOW CAN THE

US GOVERNMENT MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY AND CONTINUE TO
BE ABLE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD
IF ITS PLEDGES, PROMISES, AND COMMITMENTS, ALL MADE SERIOUSLY
AND IN GOOD FAITH ARE NOT LIVED UP TO BECAUSE OF
ISRAEL'S FRIENDS IN THE CONGRESS WHO SEEM TO RUN THE
HOW THERE?

I HAVE GIVEN YOUR SUGGESTION VERY CAREFUL
THOUGHT, AND I DO NOT MAKE MY DECISION HASTILY BUT I
DO MAKE IT WITH A VERY HEAVY HEART. I FIND THAT ALL THE
OPTIONS ARE UNACCEPTABLE. THE FOURTH OPTION
WHICH IS A VARIATION OF THE THIRD AND WHICH WAS CONVEYED
BY PHONE TO PRIME MINISTER RIFAI FROM AMBASSADOR
PICKERING LATE LAST NIGHT, IS ALSO UNACCEPTABLE.
THEREFORE I EXPECT THE ADMINISTRATION TO INSIST ON
THE WHOLE PACKAGE AS WAS AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE
PRESIDENT, YOU AND I. IF CONGRESS DOES APPROVE THE
PACKAGE, THEN NO ONE WILL BE MORE PLEASED THAN I.
IF, ON THE OTHER HAND THE WHOLE PACKAGE FALLS THROUGH
THEN I HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL FEEL THAT THEY
HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING TO JORDAN, AND I SINCERELY
HOPE THAT THEY AND OTHERS WILL NOT BLAME JORDAN FOR
OBTAINING AN ADEQUATE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM ANY
SOURCE AVAILABLE TO US.

FINALLY I WISH YOU TO KNOW THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF
THE OUTCOME OF THIS WHOLE UNPLEASANT AFFAIR, I HOPE THAT
AMERICAN JORDANIAN RELATIONS MAY CONTINUE TO FLOURISH,
PROSPER AND GROW STRONGER. AS FOR ME PERSONALLY, I
SHALL ALWAYS CHERISH YOUR FRIENDSHIP. SINCERELY
HUSSEIN I. END TEXT

3. HIS MAJESTY AND PRIME MINISTER ARE DEPARTING FOR
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TEHRAN WITHIN THE HOUR AND TENTATIVE PLANS ARE TO
RETURN TO AMMAN ON FRIDAY, JULY 25, ANY COMMUNICATIONS
FOR THEM DURING THIS PERIOD SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED
THROUGH EMBASSY TEHRAN.
LINDER

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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